

LESSON 125

BLASTED TOWER

The Golden Dawn version of the Tower is very much in line with the traditional meaning of this trump. The Tower of course should be viewed as an extension of the Devil for the two figures chained to the altar are now blasted out of the Tower through divine intervention. The archetypal meaning of this trump has its roots in the biblical Tower of Babel and the Postdiluvian Kings. Of this the Zohar says: "The beginning of his (Nimrod) Kingdom was Babel", from which we gather, it was he who first seduced the Postdiluvians from the worship and service of the true god, and introducing confusion and disunion amongst them, he eventually in usurping rule and sovereignty over them and led them to a plain in the land of Shinar, by which is meant, that from that time men forsook the worship of the Divine and began to live in defiance of his law, then degenerated and gave themselves wholly up to the pursuit of worldly pleasures and enjoyments, worshipping the creature rather than their creator who is blessed forever. It is further related "And they said, go to, let us build us a city and a tower whose head may reach unto the heaven and let us make a name..." observe the words "And they said, go to, let us build us a city and tower whose top shall reach heaven." The term 'Habbah' (go to) whenever used in scripture is always found in connection with something or a project unrealized by those who conceived it. Their blind impulse to build a city and tower arose only from wicked and foolish desire that animated and prompted them to live in open revolt against the Holy One."

In the ritual of the 27th Path of Peh (related to Mars) the candidate is told: "Ere the Eternal instituted the Formation, Beginning and the End existed not. Therefore, before Him, he expanded a certain Veil, and therein he instituted the primal Kings and these are the kings who reigned in Edom before there reigned a King of Israel. But they subsisted not. When the Earth was formless and void - behold this is the reign of EDM. And when creation was established. Lo, this is the reign of Israel. And the Wars of Titanic forces in the Chaos of creation, Lo, these are the wars between them. From a Light-bearer of unsupportable brightness, proceeded a radiating flame, hurling forth, like a vast and mighty Hammer, those sparks which were the Primal worlds. And these sparks flamed and scintillated awhile, but being unbalanced, they were extinguished. Since lo, the Kings assembled, they passed away together, they themselves beheld so they were astonished. They feared. They hasted away. And these

be the Kings of Edom who reigned before the reign of a King over Israel.'

'The Dukes of Edom were amazed, trembling they took hold of the Mighty Moab. Lord, when thou wentest out of SEIR, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the Earth trembled and heavens dropped - the Clouds also dropped Water. Curse ye MERGZ, said the Angel of the Lord - curse ye bitterly, the inhabitants therefore, because they came not to the help of the Lord - to the help of the Lord against the Mighty....he bowed the Heavens, also and came down and the darkness was under His Feet. At the brightest that was before Him, the thick clouds passed - Hail-stones and flashings of Fire. The lord thundered through the Heavens and the Highest gave forth His Voice-Hail-stones and flashings of Fire. He sent his arrows and scattered them: he hurled forth his lightnings and destroyed them.'

This gives an indication of the background the Golden Dawn associated to this trump. Though a somewhat subjective viewpoint when taken in context with the Zohar it does show the same meaning. The further descriptions from the 27th path of Pth, contained in the Philosophus Ritual in the "Complete Golden Dawn" also add additional information on the cards meaning. Of the card itself, Mathers says: 'It represents a Tower struck by a Lightning Flash proceeding from a rayed circle and terminating in a triangle. It is the Tower of Babel struck by Fire from Heaven. It is to be noted that the triangle at the end of the lightning Flash, issuing from a circle, forms exactly the astronomical symbol of Mars. It is the power of the triad rushing down destroying the Columns of Darkness. Three holes are rent in the walls, symbolising the establishment of the Triad therein and the Crown at the summit of the Tower is falling, as the Crowns in the Kings of Edom fell, who are also symbolised by the men falling headlong. On the righthand side of the Tower is LIGHT and the representation of the Tree of LIFE by the ten circles thus disposed. On the left-hand side of the Tree is DARKNESS and eleven circles symbolising the QLIPPOTH.'

The Tower is also a symbol of man himself with the light of destruction being brought down upon his own head as Kether. In fact the Tower is the Middle Pillar, like man, having the right to choose which side of the Tree it will lean to for its support. In this instance it has drawn from martial Geburah and such has been felt the tempest. The figures also show the temporary concept of power. The important thing to realise here is that the Tower is based on a philosophy that has no true weight or substance, in short, dreams that can never be. The twelve points contained in the three concentric circles also stand for the unification of the twelve tribes of Israel which forces the closure of the reign of the Kings of Edom. The three concentric

circles that they are enclosed in relate to the Air Seph. Aur, the Limitless Light from which all power must flow through. The Crown has five points and is analogous to the power of the Will issuing forth from Geburah which eventually becomes self-destructive.

The disk on the top right of the card has the points painted in the Scarlet of the King Scale, as is the lightning flash which issues from it to destroy the Tower. The background, within the circle, is Poppy Red of the Queen Scale. The background of the card is the complementary Green (to the King Scale), on the left-hand side of the Tower is in its depth while on the right-hand side of the tower the Green becomes translucent. The 11 Sephiroth are in the Madder Red of the Prince Scale while the 10 Sephiroth are Cherry Red with an Amber circle around each and represents the Princess Scale. The figures falling from the tower are the translucent colour of the King Scale with complementary green clothing. The earth on which the tower stands is the complementary Green to the Queen Scale. The Crown on the Tower is the Poppy Red of the Queen Scale. The tower itself is the Cherry Red of the Princess Scale with the bricks outlined in Amber. The three spaces in the tower are transparent and show the green background coming through.

The title of the Blasted Tower is 'Lord of the Hosts of the Mighty'. This relates to the Tower being the point of focus for housing of the Kings of Edom.

The psychological considerations of this card show an individual who has pushed too much energy into too confined an area with the result being disastrous. The Will in this instance is the area that has far exceeded the limitations of the body. It also shows no body-mind harmony and this has resulted in no reinforcement within the self or no self-defence mechanisms against any outward problems. It also shows the individual seeking the gratifications of the Lower Self with no wish to get out of this situation and try to better oneself. The animal nature has in fact taken over and all the passions and sensual desires that go with it are all fully activated and the individual goes out of control. Here we have the megalomaniac, the sensationalist, the person who devotes his or her tremendous energies for the lower appetites of human desires and who rides roughshod and will destroy anyone in their way. It becomes power out of control.

The alchemical aspect of this card is the Albedo. Here the Anchor is heated to the extreme until separation occurs, illustrated by the two bodies and the two aspects of the Tree on each side of the tower. The king (shown as the crown on the tower) has been transformed into these two melted bodies; when reduced to ashes are joined to the fire again as the fire gives freely of

its spirit to them. As they manifestly take it from the air 'It makes all things just as it makes man and all things thence, given to them a vital spirit soul'.

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## DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

Energy that is containable must have an outlet. If no outlet is found the Tower represents blind action, rage, uncontrolled emotion and it even leads to fighting or you turn your own body into a battlefield of aggression and innermost anger which leads to health problems. Projects are not seen through to any form of conclusion as interest or enthusiasm is not sustained for long. There is opposition to any outward expression which causes an eventual eruption. Damage and violence may enter your life but whatever it is, you will be made to face reality. The Tower however can also show an evolutionary experience - you are your own creator.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce; personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

Oh so impulsive ye victim of circumstance; haven't you ever considered to stop and think before you act! In this position the Tower represents shattered dreams, plans, concepts and disillusionment. The bare facts stand before you. There can be downfall after excessive material gain, resulting in great loss. Confusion and disunion causes affairs to keep going wrong. It also shows that a decision must be acted on, one can delay no longer, which calls for aggressive, decisive action. Proposed ventures are abandoned and there is intervention by a third party - this force is usually destructive. Courage and initiative is required for this phase of operation.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

The Tower shows a breakdown in communication. An accident happens, perhaps through recklessness during travel. Under relationships shown above, arguments break out and sarcasm is not spared. Shocking news is received and there is trouble with writings, education or publication. This card represents youth detention centres. People rise into action and assert their opinions, using a total lack of tact. Travel plans backfire, here are juvenile revolts and with an outside force created quite a destructive influence. This card advises that one must strive to develop self-control. A child may be expelled from school.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in life's directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

A position of fall for the Blasted Tower. Traumatic home breakups or early life experiences, parental conflict, and violence. This card shows a breaking of home ties after a period of emotional upset. Someone may be thrown out of the home. A time of Chaos, things can only get better. Concerning the soul, the Tower shows one acting in opposition to the dictates of the soul. In the fields of property and buildings etc., it shows heavy property taxes, demolition, and a loss, perhaps a breakdown. A way of life has come abruptly to an end, leaving one no choice but to start fresh.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

Here a person acts from foolish desire through blind impulse, seeking gratification of the lower self. There is no wish to better the self. In love/romance there is impatience and quarrels leading to breakups. Unwanted pregnancy leads to abortion and for some a miscarriage is indicated. Children have accidents or if aspected with the Death card and the 10 of Swords, a death of a child. Everything is dramatically done. Stocks fall, investments show a poor return. Children will need to learn independence at an early age. Due to the effect of this card here on a positive note, one could say that one has never felt so alive.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; one's sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

A job is left under unhappy circumstances or there are labour disputes, general discord, ill-treatment, anger, arguments. Tolerance has run out here leaving a state of awareness that action must be taken to alter the situation and this of course happens. Health-wise there is an inner discord, exhaustion resulting therefrom. Injury, feverish sickness. Matters have drifted along in your structured life and now you are brought to an unavoidable awareness of your situation. Change is for the better and will take place by force if you resist it.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The Blasted Tower represents discord in relationships, divorce, breaking of contracts and perhaps even war. Everything becomes personalised, self-centered. There is a lack of diplomacy, and microcosmically/macrocosmically, power games. It is the megalomaniac, however this sort of person finds affairs hard as there is obstruction and opposition. Matters are finally thrown out, you cannot turn back. The condition is transitional and unpleasant. There is misery through deception and unforeseen calamities. When will it end you might ask; just as quick as it started, however without self-defence against the unforeseen the effects are felt long after.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

In this position the Blasted Tower shows disruption to mind-body harmony. There is intervention in progress and if expected so, a violent death, or violent sexual experience. Conflict over joint resources, legacies, taxes etc cause major disruption, or perhaps revelations in ones life. Beware of rushing too fast into financial deals, bankruptcy, and involvement with people who have criminal tendencies. On a different level there is an astounding revelation which causes destruction to old beliefs. The Tower advises against spiritualism or mysticism as the results would be disastrous. It also shows that a crime is committed, needs are controlled and if there is any transformation, it is forced.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the



collective mind:

Destruction in order to obtain perfection is the key impulse for the Blasted Tower in this position. Dreams and ideals are shattered, and others ideals are promoted through violence, anger and revolt. There is a loss of faith in religions or institutions of learning, resentment of other viewpoints, rules are broken. Consider the bloody battlefields in the name of religion, the mass murders, tortures and conquering of lands in the name of religious or sectarian beliefs. Students leave their studies and travel in search of themselves. The military, reactionaries and evangelists are represented by this card.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

A reversal of fortune is depicted here by the Blasted Tower. There is a desire for power at any cost and a general disregard for humanity. Destruction of a reign or an overthrow of government is indicated. People getting the Tower in this position will have difficulty with those in authority - a take-over. Actions are sudden and if you push too much energy into a confined space the result will be disastrous. On another note, however, the Tower represents an active and exciting intelligence, a turbulent career and destruction of the old to build a new and better one. It will also show an identity crisis and disgrace through failure.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government; counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

Arguments with, or injury to friends, breakups and anger. The Tower also shows general revolts and destruction of systems or governments. Political parties loose elections and prevailing social orders are thrown out. Systems, governments, groups etc., impose their values on others. Autonomy is threatened and groups split. Ones beliefs and aspirations are shattered and the force of destiny is felt. The attitude shown here is very harsh, a do or die concept. Spiritual aspirations are changed and there is a lack of fulfilment. What is yielded is chaos, what is felt is defeat, anger, and for some violence. Overall if so aspected, an awakening and greater awareness occurs.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden

resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing, total identification:

Here ones actions are influenced by the unconscious mind, with the conscious mind having little control over what happens. Too much pride is ones downfall and causes open opposition of enemies; secret sexual involvement is discovered; Those imprisoned will break out, however in all aspects freedom is gained only at a cost. There is a lot of internal rage, however, giving over your will to a higher cause acts as an outlet for that rage, but if you serve your own purpose this generally leads to disaster. Avoid employing your energies in the wrong direction. Illness can be severe and require special help, but on a lighter note for many an illness is caused through inner anger causing rheumatism, arthritis etc. For some the Tower shows the walls of the conscious breaking and the unconscious mind flooding from its hidden realm.

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MEDITATION ON THE TOWER:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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#### exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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LESSON 126

STAR

The Star, in its Golden Dawn format appears to have altered little from the early European designs apart from some added astrological and Kabbalistic symbolism. It was considered a card of Hope and Perfection.

Mathers says of this card: 'The large Star in the centre of the Heavens has seven principle and fourteen secondary rays and this represents the Heptad multiplied by the triad. This yields 21 - the number of the Divine name EHEIEH which, as you already know, is attached to KETHER. In the Egyptian sense it is SIRIUS the Dog-Star, the Star of Isis-Sothis. Around it are the stars of the 7 planets, each with its sevenfold counterchanged operation. The nude female figure with the Star of the Heptagram on her brow is the synthesis of Isis, Nephthys and Athor. She also represents the planet VENUS through whose sphere the influence of Chessed descends. She is Aima, Binah, Tebunah, the Great Supernal Mother - Aima Elohim, pouring upon the Earth of the Waters of Creation which unite and form a River at her feet, the River going forth from the Supernal Eden which floweth and faileth not.'

Note well, that in this Key she is completely unveiled while in the 21st Key she is only partially so. The two Urns contain the influences from Chokmah and Binah. On the right springs the Tree of Life, and on the left the Tree of Knowledge of Good and of Evil whereon the Bird of Hermes alights, and therefore does this Key represent the restored World, after the formless and the Void and the Darkness, the New ADAM, the Countenance of the Man which falls in the Sign AQUARIUS. And therefore doth the astronomical ripple of this sign represent, as it were, Waves of Water - the ripples of that River going forth out of Eden - but, therefore also, is it justly attributed to Air and not unto Water because it is the Firmament dividing and containing the Water.'

To understand some of the Mathers descriptions one must go to the ritual of the 28th path of the Philosophus Grade of 4=7 which relates to Netzach and the associations attached to it. Mathers says (during the ritual). 'Before you upon the Altar is the 17th Key of the TAROT which symbolically resumes these ideas'. The first point of consideration is the figure in the card and its composite form representing of the three Goddesses. Of Isis: 'I am the Rain of Heaven descending upon the Earth, bearing with it the fructifying and germinating power. I am the

plenteous yielder of Harvest. I am the Cherisher of Life'. Of Nephthys: 'I am the Dew descending viewless and silent, gemming the Earth with countless diamonds of Dew, bearing down the influence from above in the solemn darkness of Night.' Of Athor: 'I am the ruler of Mist and Cloud wrapping the Earth, in a Garment, floating and hovering between Earth and Heaven. I am the Giver of the Dew-clad Night.' This entire concept is the action of the AIMA ELOHIM - The Mother Supernal, whose actions guide all things. The Tree on the left is a symbol that which is found in Eden before the Fall. Note that the upper part of the Tree of Knowledge equally counterbalances the lower part of the Tree of Evil, for they are one unified force, shown by the planetary symbolism in the two parts.

The Tree of Life, on the right-hand side of the card symbolises a complete cycle that one must go through before he or she gains access to the Tree of Knowledge, shown on the left-hand side of the card. The bird of Hermes above the Tree of Knowledge is the Bennu Bird of the Egyptians which symbolises the Ka or spirit of man that leaves the body after death. In this instance we have the spirit of man transcended from a lower to a higher nature where all will be revealed to him. It is a complete evolutionary step. The seven pointed Star directly above the head of the figure relates to the energies of the Sephirah of Hod and its association to Venus. The seven smaller stars with the planetary markings represent the biblical phrase at the introduction of the Golden Dawn Tarot. These are the seven seals described in revelations. They relate not only to seven Endocrine centers of man but also to the seven stages of mans civilisation that he must endure before the time of peace. The Star shows the end result of this with all centres functioning in harmony and the physical being controlled by the spirit and mind. In the previous card, the Blasted Tower showed what happened when the final seal was opened but now is a time of harmony and hope. The waters from the urns also represent the mixing of mind and body in a harmonious relationship. The stream she is mixing the waters into is life itself and represents the perfected waters being introduced to the Stream of Life in order that the purity of the waters will be maintained where ever it flows.

The colouring of the card has the sky in the Greyish Violet of the Princess Scale with the seven minor and one major star being in the complementary Straw Yellow as is the Two Trees and the planetary symbols above and below them. The Star above the figure, Bennu bird and the Sephiroth on the Tree of Life are all white. The ground is the Light Amaranth of the Prince Scale. The water from the jugs and river are Violet Grey of the Queen Scale. The figure herself is the translucent Amethyst of the King Scale while her hair and darker shadings are the normal King Scale colour. She has a faint Yellow hue surrounding her (in the com-

plementary colour of the King Scale). The jugs are the complementary Pastel Yellow of the Prince Scale. The planetary symbols on the smaller stars are the Greyish Violet of the Princess Scale.

The title of this card is 'Daughter of the Firmament, Dweller between the Waters'. This is really self-explanatory and clearly needs no elaboration on.

The psychological aspect of this card shows the perfectionist. A person who builds his or her principles from direct experience and is heavily involved with large scale social and humanitarian goals. This individual has evolved through a period of change and has now reached a plateau of his or her own brand of elitism. This person searches for the 'new' of things and in many ways this has related to his or her previous perfected work for the old is finished and the new order is beginning. Now is a time of realisation, a person for whom destiny waits to come of age. The direct relationship to the urns in the card show an outpouring of new ideas for humanity as a greater whole. This person will not do things for him/herself but for humanity at large and will leave mans seed roots that will be carried on long after they are gone.

In the alchemical theme of this trump the woman is the Animus Mundi which regenerates and restores the pool and the land around it, hence the fertile trees of growth. The bird brings down the spirit of the planets or the seven alchemical steps in which all stages of the Mercurial growth are shown. It is the man showing the highest revelation of the alchemical tree for development, a continuing cycle of growth and prosperity through study of the macrocosmic/microcosmic principles. It is the condensation of the Universal Spirit in whose reflection the chemical Sun and Moon must bathe, change their nature and become rejuvenative. Here the Universal Spirit is present in the metals of the 7 planets. It is the soul of all things capable of penetrating subliminary mixtures and making them grow. In the early ages this was done at night under the protection of the darkness with a clear sky and calm air, thus heavily related to spring on earth. Light comes out of darkness as it did from Chaos. That light was extended and radiation assembled. On the day of creation, the divine spirit could not be distinguished from the waters and was confused with it.

The numerical association to this card is number 17. Of this, Levi says: 'Seventeen is the number of the star; it is that of intelligence and love...Love!Love! Sublime redeemer and sublime restorer; thou who makest so much happiness, with so many tortures, thou didst sacrifice blood and tears, thou who art virtue itself, and the reward of virtue, force of resignation,

belief of obedience, joy of sorrow, life of death, hail! salutation and glory to thee!"

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## DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The main impetus of the Star in this position is the need to change ones nature, however this is not the beginning of change but the evolving of it where change is so natural that it is hardly recognized. One does what destiny demands without question and functions in accordance with the Universal Will, where one must determine ones own truth. This is the beginning of change in circumstances and it is also a successful culmination of experiences. Your own path must be taken and you must have personal and psychological freedom to find yourself. Then there will be the beginning of new insights and an upward spiral of your personal energy to join with the downward spiral of cosmic energy until you discover that there is no up or down.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

Effort must be given for any success, if one receives the Star here, for you reap as you sow. Developing new talents brings good fortune; material comfort is foretold. Economic influences bring many matters to a head and ones affairs and self application are greatly influenced by current trends. General optimism holds one in good stead. Although there may not be any danger in ones life this card advises discreteness. Being determined and inventive leaves little room for failure - any failure occurs through lack of application. If badly aspected there is disappointment, and there will be a need to re-establish the self.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

Here we have a person (country or town) detached from its neighbours (sisters, brothers, friends) in the general pattern of thinking, however, relationships are friendly, unassuming, and generally will run smoothly. The Star also represents the original intuitive thinker; someone/thing with a direct but intellectual approach to matters. For some, a step-sister will play a strong role in their lives, for others a female friend. The Star shows the need for adjustment to ever-changing systems under the above matters; renewed energy and inexhaustable possibilities for ones field of activity. You can anticipate opportunities to come by. The option to take them up is yours.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

Harmony is restored, the damaged is mended, you can expect to be comfortable and not wanting. The Star represents a necessary change of lifestyle - perhaps shifting to a new home/country. If this change is not made a feeling of entrapment takes over and one can end up sitting in a glass dome looking out at, yearning for the outside world. For many, especially the young, they look for their identity outside the family unit, however, they will not be lonely in their quest. Concerning land etc., the Star represents agricultural land - vineyards and the like. Concerning the Soul there is renewed spiritual energy - a high level of intuition.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The Star advises here that everything must derive from direct experience. There is strong creative inspiration pouring out with an outlet needed additional to procreation for fulfillment. When easily bored, many turn to amusements such as computer games, preferring the intellectual games. Romances have unusual beginnings and this card shows someone to be lovestruck. Children may leave home at an early age or show strong independence. Women will have little desire to be mothers. This card does not represent conception in this position. If badly aspected there is an error in judgement; missing an opportunity, dreaminess, chasing fantasies.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of

service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

A situation will be regenerated or equilibrium will be restored, and there is growth and fertility in all matters when the Star turns up here. A country strives for personal freedom, an individual creates commitments in order to buy freedom. The Star advises that you must become aware that you are your own master. In order to change your external environment you must also alter your internal environment. Concerning employment, work hours may be irregular. Employees prove to hard, tolerant workers and employers lenient. With regard to health, watch out for food poisoning or allergic reactions. There may be bad circulation and sports injuries. Health is affected by nervous tension (stress) learn to calm thyself.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The Star in this position represents straight, direct and open relationships. Partners work as equals, contracts are amiable, legal matters provide satisfactory results. Success will be long in coming, however it will come. For some there is difficulty enduring marital relationships that have lost their spice. There is a strong need for a commitment, however, there is fear of submission. Socially the Star shows a comfortable balance between a private and social life. Cogentiality, pleasant gatherings. The influences here are more macrocosmic than microcosmic.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

You can expect help in financial situations, a slow increase of funds, secure investments. The Star in this position is likened to someone (or something) rising out of the depths of an enclosure. In business this card represents someone trustworthy although a little changeable and easily enthused. Stability in partnerships prevail, however there is a tendency to drift, or dream of greener pastures. Regarding sex, there is an indication towards celibacy or turning sexuality into a higher energy form. For some there are psychic and telepathic experiences, other try to discover the subtle laws of nature. The Star alludes to the eternal renewal of life.



ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

Expanding and reforming the self, cultures, groups or civilisations. Social values, universal principals and religious ideals are envisaged, the mind soars above genetical/racial and graphic realms. There is a search for understanding and flashes of spiritual insight. The Star represents philosophizing and a tendency to dream. It shows progressive education and slow but sure growth in such matters. A person does not gratify the Self but whose work/efforts are for humanity at large. There is elitism here and one tends to be separate from the public at large, if not in body, in mind.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

Seeds of hope are implanted as the realization of possibilities form. One can be driven by the desire to attain perfection. The Star shows the culmination of political changes. For some, their profession loses its value or reasoning, and they may turn in another direction where creative potential can be fulfilled. The Star shows prosperity in new and innovative ventures, however growth will show before success is realized. There is a dedication to goals which will be reached after a hard struggle. Recognition for achievements will be small as one tends to be classed amongst the many.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

A well liked person with clearness of vision. There is unswerving loyalty of friends or to friends, however ones affections tend to be impersonal. There is a desire to link with others of like mind and to widen individual identity. Groups/organisations work to effect unity in humanity, others work towards causing equality. There has been constructive development of state/government/social order/country etc. Policies have been put into effect. Matters have crystalised revealing the direction to which the result is leading, hence blindness has been lifted from what was obscure.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

In this position there are feelings of loneliness and separatism. Instinct is to retreat rashly but this will attract illness, or accident. Effect your retreat in a planned sensible manner that will be beneficial to you. Observe lifes guiding patterns, follow and grow. There is a fear of strong personalities and too much responsibility. However many tend to loose themselves in societies or large institutions, thereby placing themselves under the rules of others. This card identifies with the cosmic whole and implies merging of individual consciousness into greater consciousness. The negative influence of the Star is to do the exact opposite. Karmic debts related to this card relate more to society as a whole than any one individual - How much do you give?

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MEDITATION ON THE STAR:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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#### exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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LESSON 127

MOON

The Golden Dawn version of this card is very much in line with the traditional Marseilles version. One theory considered by some tarot theologists is that the card represents some of the beliefs of the Cathari whose philosophies incorporate the view that the perfected souls are drawn up to celestial bliss while the imperfect ones are reincarnated as animals—a point of view that should not be taken lightly.

Mathers says: 'The 18th Key of the TAROT...represents the MOON with four Hebrew YODS like drops of dew falling, two dogs, two Towers, a winding Path leading to the Horizon, and, in the fore-ground, Water with a Crayfish crawling through it to the land.'

'The Moon is in its increase on the side of Mercy, Gedulah, and from it proceed sixteen secondary principal and sixteen secondary rays, which makes 32, the number of the Paths of Yetzirah. She is the Moon at the feet of the Woman of Revelations, ruling equally over the cold and moist natures and the passive elements of the Earth and Water. It is to be noted that the symbol of the Sign is formed of two lunar crescents bound together. It thus shows the lunar nature of the Sign. The dogs are the Jackals of the Egyptian ANUBIS, guarding the Gates of the East and of the West, shown by the two Towers between which lies the Path of all heavenly bodies ever rising in the East and setting in the West. The Cray-fish is the Sign Cancer and was anciently the Scarabeus or Khephera, the emblem of the Sun below the Horizon as he ever is when the Moon is increasing above. Also, when the Sun is in the Sign Pisces the Moon will be well in her increase in Cancer as shown by the Cray-fish emblem.'

With the 4=7 ritual of the Golden Dawn there are also further indications of the actions of the card for Mathers says: 'The traveller through the gates of Anubis is my Name. I am Water, pure and limpid ever flowing on towards the sea. I am the Ever passing Present that stands in the place of the Past. I am the Fertilised land. Hail unto thee Dwellers of the wings of the morning'. The reference to the fertilised land is the area between the the pool and the high ground where the Watch Towers stand. If we examine the speech of the Hierophant in the ritual of the 29th Path further: 'I arise in the place of the gathering of the Waters, through the rolled back Cloud of Night. From the Father of the Waters went forth the Spirit, rendering asunder the

veils of darkness...and the Countenance of darkness half formed arose.' This in fact relates to the Cray-fish as man, leaving the waters to travel on the Path which is lighted by the Crescent Shaped Moon. 'And the Choas cried aloud for the Unity of Form - and the Face of the ETERNAL arose....in the Waters beneath was that face reflected, the Formless abyss of the-Void.' This also is self-explanatory and it would pay the student to study the entire ritual of the 29th path which should be read and re-read for all these ideas are contained in the Moon - in Mathers own words.

Further investigations show that the pool from which the Cray-fish emerges relates to Life, the Cray-fish being the first stirrings of Life in its early state. The two Towers on each side of the path are Watch Towers showing that the progress of the Cray-fish, as man, is being watched and the alarm will be given if he strays from the Path. These Towers also represent the Gates of Hades, Kingdom of the Underworld and a symbol of diverse forces. The two jackals are also in the employ of those who guard the Watch Towers and are ready to devour the Cray-fish if he leaves his natural habitat, the Path. The Holy name YHVH separates the towers and allows a narrow passage for all those who wish to make their own way out of the Night. The four Yods are ready to fall both on the path and into the pool of Life to nurture them both under His Divine protection within the 32 paths of the Tree of Life that man must traverse. The entire concept relates to man having the freedom of choice to walk the correct path of his own destiny. Any deviation from it takes us back to the Pool where we must begin again - lifes karmic pattern. In many respects the beliefs of the Cathari are still relevant in the meaning of this card today. There is also a strong menstrual symbolism here as well that is contained in the ritual of the 29th Path which also must not be overlooked.

The Waters of the Star have given forth new life. The Moon is central to the forces of night creating shadows for diverse forces as deception reigns supreme. The light of the Moon being entirely subjective as opposed to the overall light of the Sun. The baying jackals at the Moon show that they have no control over it and cannot influence it in any way. Its course shows the futility of their actions.

The Watch Towers and upper part of the land which they are on is the Dark Magneta of the Prince Scale. The Sky background is the Signal Green of the Queen Scale. The Lower portion of the land on which the jackals stand is Dull Green of the Princess Scale while the jackals are in the complementary translucent Red. The path to the stream is the Ruby Red of the King Scale and the waters of the stream are the translucent Ruby Red, with the cray-fish being the complementary Green. The four Yods are the comple-

mentary red to the Signal Green of the Queen Scale. The Moon and its points are Brilliant White. (Note: 'White is an acceptable introduction to the four colours of the scales and their complementaries because white contains all the colours of the spectrum and hence maintains a vibrational pitch that will not interfere with the other colours on the card'. A quote of Mathers, taken from a lecture he gave on the subject of colour of the cards - from the papers of Felkin).

The psychological aspect of this card shows individuals who are highly impressionable by nature. Being aware of this fact only makes them withdraw into themselves. They become the perfect non-entities who have insulated themselves from the major negative forces of life. By this is meant that escapism, for want of a better word, is sought from different areas of ones unconscious. Generally, these individuals are loners and must realise their full potential state of awareness. For without it and no path to follow they fall victim to their lower selves petty desires. The individual is the cray-fish in the pool of the unconscious. Awareness of the Path shows the individual a way out of the stream which gave him birth and all the comforts of the womb.

The alchemical explanation of this card is conception - part of the conjunction. This is represented at the top of the card by the Moon joined with the Sun (this is a new concept in the dimension of this card stemming from the later comments of Mathers in 1910 to Brodie Innes who passed this information on to Felkin), in fact the Moon has eaten the Sun. The falling Yodd are the Succus Lunarae (sap of the Moon plant), showing the nocturnal origin of the water from the sky as it mixes with the stream below (Mercurius Vivos), resulting in a dissolving process of all created things back to the Lapus or the Divine Seed. The towers are Sulphur and Mercury which when joined produce the child of their union as the cray-fish, one of the first signs of primal life. The card in fact teaches that through the conjunction one can produce the first stage of life itself (the water of which contains the cray-fish is in fact the Bath of the Philosophers in which life is created). The dogs are the alchemical Corserene Hound and the Armenian Bitch - Sulphur and Mercury.

The Moon is number 18. This number is considered protection against thieves, though its theosophic deduction, the ennead ($1+8=9$), has more of a tale, alluding to the gestation of the human foetus, being an emblem of Matter, a number always reproducing itself (called the perfect number) thus inferring again to the foetus which is born at the end of the ninth month, which in turns reproduces itself at maturity.

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## DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The Moon here represents the highly impressionable individual who, when aware of this fact, will withdraw and insulate themselves from outside influence of both negative and positive energies. It is important that full awareness is developed, otherwise a limited view is formed. Awareness is your key. The temperament depicted here has phases of outward and withdrawn expression, there is difficulty in concentration as the mind is easily influenced. This card shows the imaginative, but with a tendency to be uncontrolled. There is a strong life force if all channels are clear.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

The Moon in this position shows a time of struggle - to effectuate the final move, or to just make ends meet; however although fluctuatory, there is progress and needs will be catered to, providing they are not extreme, illusionary and unrealistic. If one errs there will be deviation from purpose which will take you back to start (over old ground) again, hindering progress. For some, this means spending hard earned money. Although the Moon shows you will have to rely on your basic senses to 'get along', if you can learn to contemplate the face of cause, it will be easier to master life under the above matters.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

On a positive note, the Moon shows a power to meet difficulties with courage and faith. Although personalities will clash, your mind will act instinctively to do and say the right thing. Brothers and sisters, or cousins, may be numerous and there is a premature estrangement with one or more of them. A lack of confidence inhibits education, together with many distractions. There will be growth if one is single of purpose. Intellectually there is limitation to a persons own sphere of existence (thought).



There may be lies and deceit under the above matters.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in life's directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

Emotions are easy to erupt, moods swing. There is a tendency to jealousy, possessiveness and morbidness. You have not had an easy road to walk during your upbringing whether it be emotionally or physically. For some, they struggle for survival, for others they take advantage of the unsuspecting. Property/estates have indirect taxes - this is not a good time to sell or buy, wait for awhile to see which way the 'wind will blow'. The Moon represents sorcery and forbidden places, witchcraft and malicious deeds, beware. It is also representative of the hazards along the path of the Soul's journey.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The Moon in this position shows passion and energy controlled by the lower nature of man rather than the higher mind. It shows birth or conception - a child of union is produced. Concerning self-hood there is an exhibition of natural expression, and artistic or sporting talents lie latent. In speculation or gambling one comforts bewilderment and illusion, there are many traps. You are warned against too much recreation and pleasure seeking as it turns you from the path of the higher mind. The Moon shows potential will be fulfilled providing you do not stray from your purpose, but it has to be brought from the deeper most recesses of the mind.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; one's sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

If the essential details are attended to, work will be thorough, however know your limitations. In this position the Moon may show a need for a time for psychological repair. Behaviour patterns here are reactions from the subconscious; there may be crime and deceit. There is melancholy, depressions, physiological changes. Lymphatics, sexual organs or fluid retention may be involved. There is cellular growth to injuries. In your working environment, tread carefully as there are those who will take advantage of your mistakes. Do not gossip for there

are those who will twist your words. Slander.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The meaning of the Moon in this position is rather mixed. In some cases it shows a second marriage, infidelity; in others- someone is drawn irresistably to anothers magnetism. There is possible treachery by a friend or partner - tread carefully. Irrational thinking creates images and phantoms of the mind, thereby causing obstacles. In some relationships it shows two cleaved together against all conflicting interests and outside interference. Misfortune may come to your loved one, depending on the surrounding cards.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

Do not expect to be enriched in any way and beware of deceit and treachery. This is not a good time to go into partnership or business deals. There is a negative effect on others and petty little accidents occur. The Moon alludes to the passing over of the soul, mediumship. The developing individual will have to do battle with the phantoms of the material world. This card shows that an indirect but natural path to spiritual attainment is taken. There is gradual perception and many phases of what is considered reality. Life is cyclic and the Moon shows the pushing forth of life and energy just as life must burst from the womb. It is a dualistic universe through which the spirit functions and this must always be taken into consideration.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

A crisis of faith, morals and ethics lost, purpose has lost its meaning. There are religious disputes and the mental attitude is easily unbalanced. There is a difficult but stimulating adventure; for some, long water and land journeys. Much will be gained through travel, but many difficulties may arise along the way if you deviate from your course. The Moon shows a challenge to rise above pride and war to bring co-operation and peace to

life. Concerning higher study and writing, this card tells of progress providing one item (subject) is dealt with at a time.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

There is a compulsion to step off the Path and resort to emotion, greed and selfishness. There is much frustration in ones career with many things beyond your control. You must lift yourself by your own merits for nothing comes easy. This is a time when one is on the brink of an important change and there arise promises of victory over the material world, however, beware for the power of material forces can be deceptive. The Moon advises one step at a time in any given direction. Goals are generally materialistic, but for some, spiritual power. However, goals will not be reached yet.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfillment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

In this position this card depicts the lunatic, but who is to judge what madness is; could it be we are all mad. There is a strong influence by the surrounding environment and repression from Society or groups is indicated; war-like behaviour among factions and limitation of boundaries is indicated. Nevertheless under the above matters an end is near, where human or other faculties have reached their uttermost limit and one must discard all senses, offering themselves completely to a non-rational influence of an inward guiding light. There are problems of not being able to see the wood for the trees.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

In this position, the Moon alludes to those who are secretive, who do not reveal anything of themselves, reflecting the images of others. It represents the bondage of the psycho-physiological consciousness of the animal man. There is secretiveness under the above matters and friends may become enemies. It is purely a matter of survival with the strongest and most cunning surviving. Health wise, it shows the activity of natural forces

on the body. Karmically one meets many who are working out their karma; the danger is getting entangled up in their karma which would have not necessarily effect you. Try to remain neutral and focus on your own light.

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MEDITATION ON THE MOON:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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#### exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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